

REMARKS

1. An Office Action requiring Applicants to elect a single invention for prosecution on the merits was mailed December 14, 2007. Claims 1-19 were last presented for examination. By the foregoing Amendments, no claims have been amended, added or cancelled. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-19 will be pending in this application. Of these 19 claims, 4 claims (claims 1, 10, 14 and 18) are independent. In response to the Election/Restriction Requirement, Applicants submit this Response to Election/Restriction Requirement.

Election/Restriction

2. The Examiner has required the election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits. The Examiner alleged that the originally filed claims are directed to the following four (4) patentably distinct inventions:

- I.* Claim 1-9 and 19, drawn to a speech processor and housing and case, classified in class 607, subclass 57.
- II.* Claims 10-13, drawn to a case for containing a speech processor, classified in class 206, subclass 438.
- III.* Claims 14-17, drawn to a speech processor and housing, classified in class 704, subclass 200.
- IV.* Claim 18, drawn to a speech processor, classified in class 704, subclass 200.

Election

3. In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.143 and MPEP 818.03(b), Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the claims of Group I, namely, claims 1-9 and 19.
4. Applicants do not intend to dedicate non-elected claims to the public and reserve the right to file divisional applications for the subject matter covered by the non-elected claims.
5. The inventorship for the invention of the elected claims is the same as the inventorship of record in this application.

Conclusion

6. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Dated: January 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Michael G. Verga/
Michael G. Verga
Registration No.: 39,410
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants